

Record

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Youth Night '03 scheduled for July 25

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The largest annual gathering of Mississippi Baptists will convene July 25 in the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson for the 2003 version of Mississippi Baptist Youth Night.

"We're expecting more than 9,000 young people and their sponsors for a night of worship and celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ," said Don Lum, chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Youth Team and a consultant in the board's Sunday School Department. "If previous years are any indication, the Coliseum will be standing room only before the program even starts."

The featured speaker this year is Stuart Hall of Cumming, Ga. Hall has devoted his career to youth ministry for the past 15 years and has served three churches as youth minister. He has also worked with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Hall is the head of DASH, Inc., a non-profit organization whose mission is to raise the standard of influence among students globally by developing teenagers as spiritual leaders. The organization currently partners with more than 200 youth ministries worldwide.

Hall is the featured communicator at Inside Out, the high school discipleship

program of North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, Ga., and at Big Stuff, a weekly gathering during the summer in Panama City Beach, Fla. He has co-authored a book entitled, The Seven Checkpoints: Seven Principles Every Teenager Needs To Know, and the accompanying Student Journal with his pastor, Andy Stanley.

Hall and his wife Kellee have three children.

Jake Gullledge of Assurance Ministries in

Gainesville, Ga., will be the worship leader. His discography includes The Experience: Isaiah 6 (1999) and In the

Hall

Hands of the Lord (1993). He has appeared with 4-HIM, Newsong, Truth, Point of Grace, LaRue, Cindy Morgan, Rebecca St. James, and Mark Lowery.

A native of Lancaster, S.C., Gullledge resides in Gainesville with his wife Denise.

Lum said the doors to the Coliseum will open at 5:30 p.m., and the program will begin at 6:30 p.m. with pre-session music. Counselor training will be conducted at 5:30 p.m. at the west end of the Coliseum.

There is no admission charge. An invitation will be included and a love offering will

be taken. There will be no reserve seating and a packed house is expected, so Lum advised attendees to arrive early enough to navigate traffic congestion around the Coliseum and get good seats. Vans and buses are welcome.

Some of the traffic congestion should be relieved at the Coliseum and the adjacent fairgrounds complex with the completion of the High Street reconstruction project. High Street serves as the main entrance to the Coliseum.

Members of the 2003 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night Planning Committee, in addition to Lum, include:

- Mike Brister, student minister at First Church, Brookhaven.

- Jon Cooper, student minister at First Church, Amory.

- Randy Cuchens, music minister at First Church, Newton.

- Rob Futral, pastor of Country Woods Church, Byram.

- Gary Phillips, former education/youth minister at First Church, Quitman.

- Gary Watts, member of Wynndale Church, Terry.

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night is a ministry of the

Mississippi Cooperative Program. For more information, Lum can be contacted at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3280 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 280. E-mail: dlum@mbcb.org.



Gullledge

VBS 2003 kicking off with May 18 Day of Prayer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Great Kingdom Caper, also known as Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2003, is just around the corner.

Churches are getting ready for this year's summer-time outreach, set in jolly old England, in which participants will try to crack the "character code."

May 18 has been set for the VBS Day of Prayer, with churches asked to set aside a special time of prayer for all the VBS workers as well as for the people whose lives will be touched through VBS.

"We are hoping that pastors will make May 18 a special day

in their churches, with a recognition and commissioning of the VBS workers," said Becky

VBS is one of the best evangelistic tools used by churches. While statistics for 2002 VBS

based on the Annual Church Profile won't be available until later in the summer, numbers from 2001 reflect its impact: 28,180 churches conducted VBS; more than 3.2 million were enrolled; more than 81,000 VBS workers were trained through state conventions; almost 110,000 decisions were made to accept Christ as Savior. Few

other programs or events can boast such figures.

State conventions and local associations have done a good

job of getting the word out about training events for VBS workers, Martin said. "One of the best reasons for a church to do VBS and choose our material is the availability of free training for workers. The associations who are doing the best job in training workers do two clinics, one in the winter and one later on in the spring."

This year's theme, The Great Kingdom Caper: Cracking the Character Code, speaks to the current times. "Think how many people are out of work now and how many of those are without jobs because of a lack of character at the top levels of big companies," Martin said.

For more information on VBS in Mississippi, contact Linda Reeves, consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Sunday School Department, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3294, toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 294. E-mail: lreeves@mbcb.org.



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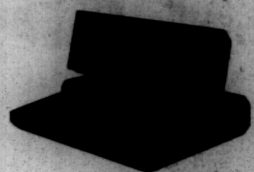
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The Old Dinosaur's death rattle

Could the war in Iraq have gone any better? Of course. It could have gone better if there had been a way to avoid the loss of life on both sides, but the adept prosecution of the war and now swift implementation of humanitarian and recovery programs have gone pretty good up to this point.

In less than a month a fearsome and ruthless enemy has been soundly defeated; a sociopathic dictator has been toppled; a populace crushed under the boot of a Soviet-style totalitarian state has been freed; the dictator's fellow sociopaths are being rounded up one by one; electricity and water are being gradually restored in Baghdad; and Iraqi children are learning American pop songs from Marines who are also guarding them.

The Iraq War has been called one of the most effective military campaigns in the history of armed conflict. Every ground maneuver, every high-tech weapon, was implemented in a way that would minimize civilian damage, prevent unnecessary casualties, and preserve vital utilities and institutions.

All of this was done to bring an end to one of the most terrifying regimes in human history. Saddam's henchmen kept the population under control through the use of murder, kidnapping, torture, gang rape, mutilation, starvation, and abject poverty, to name just a few of their favorite techniques.

Under Hussein, Iraq had sought to develop nuclear weapons at least since the early 1980's and repeatedly gassed to death their fellow men, women, and children. One war on top of another decimated the best and brightest for at least three generations.

All of that is over now, thanks to the bravery of the coalition troops and the brilliance of their leaders. Iraqis are pulling down statues of the dictator all over the country and burning him in effigy. They are waving American flags and chanting "U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!"

Some Iraqis are even using their newfound freedom of speech to demand that the

Americans go home. They aren't being ungrateful for the most part; they're just anxious for all the foreigners to leave so they can begin their country anew.

There's only one major fly in this ointment: the liberal, elitist American news media establishment doesn't see the Iraq campaign as a victory at all. They see only "quagmires" and failure.

The cover of Newsweek's last issue before the war featured this lead story: "Why Bush failed." A serious-minded Peter Jennings lectured us on the wrongness of the war every night on ABC News. The Washington Post and the New York Times so often highlighted the rare, minor mistakes of the war that one would think American soldiers couldn't tie their own boot laces.

On the evening of April 14, while the liberation of the Iraq people was being celebrated on several continents and former belligerents were sharing meals in the streets of Baghdad, ABC's Nightline focused on the looting of one museum in Baghdad (albeit a major museum).

All the good news swirling around the world in relation to the success of the liberation campaign, and Nightline could only focus on the negative. Typical. Typical, but also sad. Sad, but also exasperating.

The national news media continue to hemorrhage customers, and they can't seem to figure it out. Every year, fewer and fewer Americans (to their credit) depend on the dominant, mainstream news media for their information about the world. While narcissists like Peter Jennings drone on as if we are all children, they don't seem to realize we are



smart enough to switch to one of dozens of other news media outlets that are willing to tell the story fairly and accurately.

The days of the big, elitist news media monopolies are drawing to a close. It may take a while longer, but the Old Dinosaur is gradually going to give way to a refreshing new age of journalism. Those of us who listen closely can already hear the death rattle.

Maybe then, Christians and religious groups will be treated fairly and accurately instead of being constantly depicted as diabolical, dirt-eating snake handlers.

If that be the case, let us do everything we can within our power to hasten that glorious day.

GUEST OPINION:

*If you can't
take the heat...*

By Tim Ellsworth
Mulkeytown, Ill.



For years, Hollywood factor Tim Robbins has used his celebrity status as a platform to espouse his ultra-liberal views. Now that someone has stood up to him, he's crying foul and claiming his rights have been violated.

Baseball Hall of Fame president Dale Petroskey recently informed Robbins that the Hall of Fame was canceling a 15th anniversary celebration of Bull Durham, a classic baseball movie starring Robbins and his real-life, live-in lover Susan Sarandon. Petroskey cited Robbins' constant criticisms of President George W. Bush and the war with Iraq as the reason for the cancellation.

"We believe your very public criticism of President Bush at this important — and sensitive — time in our nation's history helps undermine the U.S. position, which ultimately could put our troops in even more danger," Petroskey, a former Reagan administration official, wrote in a letter to Robbins. "As an institution, we stand behind our President and our troops in this conflict."

Robbins was outraged. He responded with a harshly worded letter to Petroskey, in

which he accused the Hall of Fame president of attempting to politicize baseball.

"I am sorry that you have chosen to use baseball and your position at the Hall of Fame to make a political statement," Robbins said. "I know there are many baseball fans that disagree with you and even more that will react with disgust to realize baseball is being politicized."

Excuse me? Robbins is one of the most radical left-wingers in Hollywood, and he never misses a chance — no matter what the circumstances — to express his political views. What basis does he have for accusing Petroskey of politicizing baseball?

Quite the opposite is actually true. Petroskey canceled the Bull Durham anniversary precisely

because he feared Robbins would seize the opportunity to make yet another liberal anti-war political statement.

Robbins also accused Petroskey of "using what power you have to infringe upon my rights to free speech and by taking this action hope to intimidate the millions of others that disagree with our president."

Again, this is absurd. How is Petroskey infringing upon Robbins' right to free speech? Petroskey is not restricting what Robbins does or does not say. He has simply decided that Robbins will not say whatever he wants at an anniversary celebration. Robbins has no constitutional right to celebrate Bull Durham's 15th anniversary, but this is what his letter claims.

It's amazing how leftists like Robbins are the first ones to denounce people like John Rocker when they say things that are offensive, but yet are sanctimonious enough to be enraged when someone like Petroskey has the guts to stand up to them for their offensive language.

As an American, Robbins has every right to his viewpoints and the freedom to express them whenever he wants. But freedom comes with responsibility, and exercising your rights doesn't make your actions devoid of consequences.

Robbins has sown the seeds of free speech and political grandstanding for a long time. Now Petroskey has exercised his constitutional right to free speech by criticizing Robbins and canceling a celebration for fear of what Robbins might say.

The Bible says that whatever a man sows, that he also will reap. This is a truth Robbins obviously hasn't grasped, and one he should seriously consider.

Ellsworth is a former staffer for the Illinois state Baptist newspaper who currently works as a sports reporter for a secular publication. He is a weekly columnist for www.bpsports.com.

Spring breakers hear message of salvation

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (BP) — In what was billed as one of the largest religious gatherings ever in the United States, thousands of Florida Baptists from more than 200 area churches added their support on March 22-23 to the latest of international evangelist Luis Palau's massive free evangelism festivals, called Great music and Good News Beachfest in Fort Lauderdale.

"It has been a super adventure for the past year or so," David Burton, director of the Florida Baptist Convention's evangelism division, told the Fla. Baptist Witness.

Burton, who took his own bag of evangelism tools to the beach — a "magic" Bible, the Evangecube, and word puzzle stickers with the Gospel message — joined thousands of others who volunteered to talk to people

about Jesus, serve up food, and keep an eye on the rowdy, beach-clad crowds. Festival organizers reported 5,000 documented decisions for the March 22-23 outreach.

The Beachfest featured something for everyone: a 10,000-square-foot pro skateboard park, a VeggieTales children's area, a Sports Zone staffed with Miami Dolphins players, and some of the inspirational world's top rock, Gospel, and pop artists like Third Day, TobyMac, and Jump 5.

Security concerns drew more than the typical number of both uniformed police officers and

off-duty volunteers, although how many more is not clear, Andy Palau, project coordinator for Beachfest, told the Witness. He said the unusually

as they are able and then trust the Lord that all things work together for the good," Palau said.

Trusting in God's sovereign-

to their life — keeping the substance the same?"

Reccord credited the Argentine-born 68-year-old Palau, who has been involved in mass evangelism for more than 35 years in 69 nations, for his unique style, which includes taking the Gospel to the beach.

"Praise God for the guy who like Peter will get out of the boat and take off and walk in faith," Reccord said of Palau.

Ben Smith, Jacksonville-area Baptist Student Ministries director of the Florida Baptist Convention, careened around the beach with his infant son, in leading nearly a dozen students who moved up the coast to Beachfest after completing various projects through the For You Miami initiative supported in part by the Miami Baptist Association.



BEACHFEST WITNESSING — David Burton (left) director of the Florida Baptist Convention's evangelism division, shares the Gospel with a group of onlookers at Fort Lauderdale's Beachfest. Thousands of young people from around the country flock to Florida each year while their schools and colleges are on Spring Break. (BP photo by Joni B. Hannigan)

high cost of providing security was anticipated in light of world events and built into the \$2.1 million budget provided by hundreds of local and national businesses.

Palau said the federal Homeland Security Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and anti-terrorist task forces in the Southeast encouraged the Portland-based Luis Palau Evangelist Association (LPEA) to "absolutely, go for it," in planning for the festival.

"We have to press forward and put our confidence in the government to do its job as best

ty comes easy for Palau. Calling himself a "poster child" for this kind of evangelistic event, the 37-year-old former Grateful Dead concert-goer, said he did not make a decision to trust Christ until he was 27.

"The methods can change over time, but the Gospel message has to stay the same. It is sacred. But none of this is sacred," Palau said, gesturing wide at the rock-concert and fun-and-games set-up at the beach. "This is just for a season; it's to capture the attention of the city."

Robert E. Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board, expressed the same sentiment in an interview with the Witness. Reccord spoke March 21 at a Proclamation Evangelism Network conference for evangelists held in conjunction with Beachfest.

"The substance of the Gospel must never change, but the style must be adaptable to the culture," Reccord said. "Are we going to sit back in our stained glass ghettos and expect them to come to us, or are we going to do what Jesus did and take the Gospel to them and adapt it

"This is a great way of having a creative ministry," Smith said. "We've got to think outside the box and do some things and reach people right where they are."

Palau, poised and ready to deliver a message each night, dressed casually in khakis and a blue denim shirt, looked around at the mostly young crowd and spoke plainly about morality.

Casting an inclusive vision, Palau, in Spanish and in English, said: "Safe sex is no sex outside of marriage. That is safe sex." He told the youth the power of Jesus Christ would help them control themselves. "God is love; real love is not sex," he said.

As for God's claim on their lives, Palau said His plan is for people to be holy. "He loves you just as you are," the energetic Palau said of God, "but He loves you too much to leave you just as you are."

"I beg you to come running to Jesus because He loves you," Palau said. "Some of you are pushed around. People call you loser, geek ... or worse. Jesus Christ said you are my friend when you do as I command you."

Children interrogated

OSLO, Norway (BP) — Officers of the secret police in Turkmenistan have ordered children of Baptist parents to be taken from their school classes and interrogated about internal church life and their Christian education in their families in the Central Asian country, according to a Forum 18 News Service report April 11. "They banned the children from attending services and threatened several of them [who were older] with prison," according to an April 3 statement Forum 18 received from the Baptist church in the city of Balkanabad (formerly Nebit-Dag) in western Turkmenistan. The church has been raided several times recently and has been banned from meeting. Although Forum 18 was unable to verify the report of the questionnaires, the news service noted that statements issued by the unregistered Baptists have a long track record of reliability. No one at the government's Gengeshi (Committee for Religious Affairs) in the capital Ashgabat would comment on the raids and interrogations to Forum 18 on April 11. The Baptist congregation belongs to the International Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians/Baptists, which rejects membership on principle in all the former Soviet republics.

Even had its congregations wished to register, it has been impossible because the law requires each individual religious group to have 500 adult citizens registered with the government. The law also bans on registering religious groups in Turkmenistan and Russia.

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THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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Looking back

10 years ago

Southern Baptists launch an abstinence program named True Love Waits. Begun by a youth group in Hermitage, Tenn., the program seeks to equip teenagers with the skills and desire to remain sexually pure until marriage.

20 years ago

G. Keith Wilkinson, field services coordinator with the Baptist Sunday School Board, is elected director of the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School department to succeed Bryant Cummings upon his retirement in June.

50 years ago

Doris Wiggins, editorial assistant of the Baptist Record for the past two years, resigns to accept the position of assistant editor of publications of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

Batesville church burns on April 21

Calvary Church, Batesville, was totally destroyed in a fire early on the morning of April 21. No one was injured.

According to Courtney Selvy, Associational Missions Director, Panola Association, a policeman noticed what seemed to be a cloud near the church at approximately 3 a.m. The policeman discovered it was smoke, and firefighters were dispatched. Firefighters fought the blaze until about 9 a.m. Monday morning.

The church was a total loss. While some walls were still standing, the sanctuary and classrooms were gone. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

"It was a beautiful church building," said Selvy. "We had just had our spring associational meeting there." Selvy indicated that there might be some vacant stores the church could use temporarily, and that Sunday School classes might meet in the homes of members.

"The church has already been offered another church building for Sunday evening services," Selvy stated.



Peters

First person: Trip to China an eye-opener

By Alice M. Smith
Correspondent

In the fall of 2001, One Voice, a music/drama ensemble directed by L. Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), began praying and seeking God's direction as to the place He would have them go on their next mission trip scheduled for Spring 2003.

During the January 2002 retreat for One Voice, Smith asked, "How do you feel about going to China?" There was an immediate excitement that permeated the group and resulted in an enthusiastic response. With financial support from the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering and love offerings received at One Voice concerts for many years — along with the logistic assistance of MBCB Partnership Director Ken Rhodes and his department — the trip became a reality.

On March 10, One Voice left for China. The trip would prove to be one of adventure, joy, deep missions impact, profound interaction with the Chinese and with our own workers who live and minister there — and even trepidation as One Voice members dealt with the beginning of the



One Voice at Hallelujah Church in Harbin, China

war in Iraq and learned of the deadly SARS respiratory illness invading China.

The Mississippians felt the presence of God. The power of prayer and the knowledge that people across America and in Mississippi

were praying constantly for them was like a tangible aura that enveloped the group. In spite of the uncertainty of the times, they experienced the promise of the "peace of God that passes all our understanding."

The question was asked by a university student, "What has made the most impression on you during your stay in China?" I couldn't help but answer, "The bright and shining eyes, alive with curiosity and the friendly smiles of the people of China. I am most impressed with your people and their interest in Americans and America. I am also impressed with your desire for education. You have so many large universities here."

Another student asked me, "What is your goal for your life? What do you hope to accomplish?" With great joy, I walked through that door of invitation and said, "To love Jesus with all of my heart and soul and mind and to serve Him and please Him all of my life. Everywhere I go, I want to tell people I talk to about Jesus and that He is God's Son and gives me eternal life."

Then I said, "I have always wanted to serve Jesus and prayed at your age that He would show me what He wanted me to do, for He has a plan for each person's life. I have a love story to tell you. (I learned the students love to hear love stories.)"

"God told me that He wanted me to marry someone who was called to serve Him with his life, but I didn't feel it would be a preacher. It would be someone else. God led me to my husband and I have lived and served with Him for almost 42 years now. He is in music and directs our group and serves God in music in Mississippi."

As we heard the news that the United States was at war with Iraq and SARS was spreading rapidly, I was reminded of Lottie Moon's ministry in China over 100 years ago, and I thought to myself, "How could she leave her homeland in such a long-ago time, to go around the world to give her life to a people and a land in the midst of poverty, danger, and disease... and choose to live in such loneliness? She was just Lottie Moon, but with a special distinction. She was called by God."

I am impressed anew with those who are called to give their lives to missions. I am in awe of them. I will pray for them more often and with more fervor and I will give of my resources to help them. It is real to me now, the way they give their lives to share the message of Christ. It is real now, and the experience of knowing and observing will never leave me.

Smith is Director of Media Relations for Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, and the wife of L. Graham Smith.

Vicksburg native sees no disability when seeking, following God's will

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Justin Peters of Vicksburg has an impressive resume', a freshly-minted seminary degree, loads of enthusiasm — and cerebral palsy. He hasn't allowed that last reality to have much of an affect on the other three, however.

"If not for the cerebral palsy, I wouldn't be the person I am today. God didn't cause me to have cerebral palsy, but he allowed me to have it for a reason," said Peters, age 29, who was diagnosed when he was about twelve months old. "I believe it has opened doors to ministry that would otherwise have been closed. I minister in ways that an 'able-bodied' minister cannot."

Doctors told his parents not to expect much from him, Peters said. The doctors predicted that he would never be able to hold a pencil. Time and again, he has proven them wrong.

Although he uses a motorized scooter for convenience, he can walk just about anywhere he wants to go. With a pair of graduate degrees (M.Div. '00, Th.M. '02) from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, and an undergraduate degree in economics from Mississippi State University in Starkville, Peters has proven he can do considerably more than just hold a pencil.

"I've never felt that my disability entitled me to feel sorry for myself," he said. He credits a loving and support-

ive family — parents Robert and Sandra Peters of Vicksburg and sister Kelly Peters Hedley of Ridgeland — along with the encouragement he received over the years from his church family, First Church of Vicksburg.

"Because of my parents' example and the ministry of my church, I was led to the Lord and saved at the age of seven. After I finished my undergraduate studies, I planned to get a master's degree in public policy. I couldn't find peace with myself, however. I prayed for direction, and the thought came that God was calling me into ministry, but I dismissed it."

"Perhaps a better description would be that I resisted it. I couldn't eat or sleep. I rededicated my life in the fall of 1993, but inside I was still very unhappy. It was only after continued, intense prayer that I realized and fully accepted God's plan for my life. In November of 1995, I finally said, 'God, I'll do it.' I surrendered to the ministry," Peters said.

From that point forward he has seen no reason to question God about the direction of his life, he pointed out. "There have been difficult times, especially when I was young and would ask, 'Why me?' I don't ask any longer, because I have seen God's plan for my life."

Since finishing his second degree at Southwestern Seminary, Peters has preached four revivals and is pleased to supply preach when asked to do so. His dream is to serve a church as associate pastor, if the Lord wills.

"I know I want to incorporate evangelism in whatever ministry God has for me," he added.

Peters believes physical limitations are a poor excuse for not following God's will.

"I would counsel anyone to take a deep breath and ask if all they want God has blessed you. Don't let your disability stop you. Seek God's strength, because He wants to make you perfect in His will."

"If you don't believe in God, if healing doesn't come, if you don't know what He has planned for you, He will not call you to do anything. He has not empowered you to do anything until you may be able to do it. He can still make you perfect in His will."

"God is calling you to do His will. He chooses who He calls. We must allow Him to work in our lives. His perfect will," he said.

Uruguayans planting Mississippi church

By W. Frank Lay
Correspondent

Gaston and Marysol Romero first heard God's call to missions early in life. Later, while attending a missionary conference in their home country of Uruguay, God confirmed His call to them. Little did they realize that they would be appointed by the Baptist Convention in Uruguay to serve as missionaries in the United States.

Their call to missions has now led them to Mississippi where the Romeros will serve as church planters. They will work with the Colonial Heights Church, Metro Association, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention in the planting and developing of Iglesia Bautista Vida Abundante (Abundant Life Baptist Church) in Jackson. Gaston will serve as pastor of the church while Marysol will assist in Christian educational ministries.

As missionaries, the Romeros know that they will have to make the same cultural adjustments that American missionaries have to make when they go to other countries. Not only will they have to adjust to life and culture in Mississippi, they will also have to adapt to the many Hispanic cultures represented in Vida Abundante.

Though Vida Abundante is a Spanish-speaking congregation, a number of language and cultural variances exist between the different nationalities in the church. The Vida Abundante church will seek to reach the many Hispanic business and professional people living in the Jackson area.

However, Gaston does not want to limit his ministry just to one group of people. He said, "I am a servant of God throwing the nets of the church to catch as many Hispanic fish as I can."

As pastor, Gaston Romero has two goals. His first goal is to build a leadership team. "We need leaders who understand where we are going and how to get there." To accomplish that goal, he will seek to build the church around three major pillars: prayer, the Bible, and discipleship. "Nothing can be obtained from God apart from prayer," he said.

Regarding the Bible, he said, "We believe in a living God and His Word is a living message." As Jesus invested His life in His disciples, so Gaston wants to invest his life in making disciples for Christ.

Gaston's second goal is derived from the first one. He wants to guide Vida Abundante to grow and mature to the point that the church will be able to plant other churches. He has a vision to lead the church to reach out to the thousands of Hispanics residing in Mississippi.

As church planters, the Romeros know that one day they will move on to other places of ministry in order to begin other churches. Until then, Gaston said, "We know we are in the right place, at the right time, and are working with the right people."

The Romeros are especially grateful to the many people who have influenced their lives in the past. Missionary Ronald Roy, International Mission Board representative to Uruguay, served as a mentor



to the Romeros and helped them learn about church planting. Now the Romeros want to invest in the lives of others.

The Iglesia Bautista Vida Abundante is located on the campus of Colonial Heights Church in Jackson. The church receives monthly financial assistance from the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions.

The Romeros have two children, Daniel Maximiliano, age eight, and Guzman, age six.

REACHING OUT — Gaston Romero (left), pastor of Iglesia Bautista Vida Abundante in Jackson, discusses his plans for community outreach with Bob Haller, Associate Pastor of Colonial Heights Church where Romero's church currently meets. (BR photo by W. Frank Lay)

ANGER OUT OF CONTROL

The Bible says, "Be ye angry and sin not." Yet, I have never met anyone who did not have a temper. I have met people who appeared to never get angry, only to find out after talking to their spouse, or children, or close friends, that their fuse was not nearly as long as I thought. The fact is that everyone has the capability of getting angry. In fact, if you will look closely, you will find that God gets angry. We know we were made in His image; therefore, He gave us that dimension also. Does that mean that we go around fuming, lashing out at people, and saying and doing things that are destructive? No, not at all! In fact, that is what the Scripture is addressing when it says, "Be ye angry and sin not."

It is all right to have the emotion of anger, but when it is displayed, it must be in such a way that it will result in doing the right thing and not the wrong and destructive thing. We see the wrong and destructive display of anger every day. For instance, we see it in "road rage." We see it in sports as Latrell Sprewell chokes his coach and as Coach Bobby Knight throws a chair across the basketball court. We also see it manifest constantly in domestic violence. Some time ago a couple was celebrating their anniversary and as a gift to his wife the husband bought her some roses. Rather than making her happy, she began



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

stabbing her husband with a knife. She became angry over the fact that he had spent too much money on the flowers.

So what can you do when you get angry in order to "not sin?" When we do have those emotions of anger that flood through us, there are three possibilities we face:

1. We can express it. What I mean by that is that we can explode, rant, rave, belittle, attack, or even stab, but to do that would be the wrong thing! That kind of expression only results in our thinking, usually only minutes or hours later, "I wish I had not done that," or "I wish I had not said that."

2. We can repress it. This is what we do when we get angry and just push it down. We count to ten and nothing happens. Then, we count to a hundred and nothing happens. So, we keep on pushing it down and never really deal with the issue or the anger. Often, when this becomes the main way of dealing with anger, we end up staying angry all the time.

Possibly you know someone who represses their anger and

as a result they just seem to be sour on the world. They stay angry about any and everything that's going on and won't deal with the cause of the anger. Instead, they just move through life seething underneath, always in a "slow burn."

3. We can confess it. When you get angry, confess it to God. In the Bible the word confess means to agree with. God already knows that you are angry, but when we confess our anger we agree with God's understanding of us. Immediately what this leads to is a "God perception" of the moment. Why are you angry? What would God do about it?

Have you ever been going somewhere and become very angry because you found yourself stuck in traffic? Then, some time later, you discovered that there had been an automobile accident. Now, please tell me one good thing your anger accomplished. Did you suppose that someone up there ran into another person simply to make you mad? Of course not! How do you think the people involved in the accident felt?

I'm sure they certainly weren't happy either. In fact, someone could have been injured or possibly lost their life. Would you swap circumstances with them? No! In fact, sitting in traffic for a few minutes longer may delay you, but it will not likely destroy you!

Instead of fuming and getting angry, why not pause to thank God for caring for you. Why not give thanks that it is not you being rushed to the hospital. Who knows, you may even have opportunity to help someone. Confessing our anger to God allows us to sit alongside of Him, gaining His perspective about what to do. This may be the key to being angry and sinning not.

One day a man was standing in line at a grocery store waiting to check out. The line was long and wasn't moving. He was getting angry. He attempted to find out what the problem was and he discovered that a handicapped lady was having great difficulty loading her groceries onto the counter. The man then pushed his buggy aside, walked up to the front of the line, and began helping the lady unload her buggy. He then took the time to help load her groceries and carry them out to her car. When he returned to the store, he got his buggy back in line and waited patiently to check out. He was now no longer angry. Instead he was calm, but more than that, he was thankful! Anger is better handled when it is turned into gratitude!



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

The RAs of **First Church Oloh, Sumrall**, presented the church with a \$100 check for the **Annie Armstrong Mission Offering**. The boys earned the money by hosting a hot dog supper for church members.



RAs of First Church Oloh, Sumrall

The following children from **First Church, Collinsville**, recently participated in the State Bible Drills held at Poplar Springs Church, Meridian. Pictured (from left, front) are David May, Turner Ennis, (back) Lindsey Summerlin, Anne Beth Bates, Glenda Rowell, and Joel Mabry.

A Y-Fest Student Crusade meeting will be held at the Yalobusha Multipurpose Building, Coffeeville, on May 13 at 7 p.m. The Yalobusha Baptist Association is sponsoring this event.

First Church, Jackson, will hold a Senior Adult May Day and Croquet on May 1 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the corner of High Street and Jefferson. For more information, call (601) 949-1907.

The Meyers Family will be in concert at Bethel Church, Columbus, on April 27 at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Dinner will be on the grounds at noon. For more information, call (662) 327-2111.



State Bible Drill Participants of First Church, Collinsville

Clear Branch Church, Wesson, presented Charles E. Davis, Director of Missions, McComb, in a program in February. Davis (pictured) is "on the telephone with God." Wayne Moak is pastor.

The **Women on Missions of Center Hill Church, Hamilton**, recently honored Addie Adair to dedicate and name the Center Hill Church Women on Missions to the Addie Adair Women on Missions. Adair (holding the sign) is pictured with the Women on Missions.

First Church, Brandon, will present Cindi McMenamin in a women's conference, Seasons of a Woman's Heart, on April 26 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at

Mississippi College in the Grand Hall of the B.C. Rogers Student Center. A book signing will follow. For tickets,

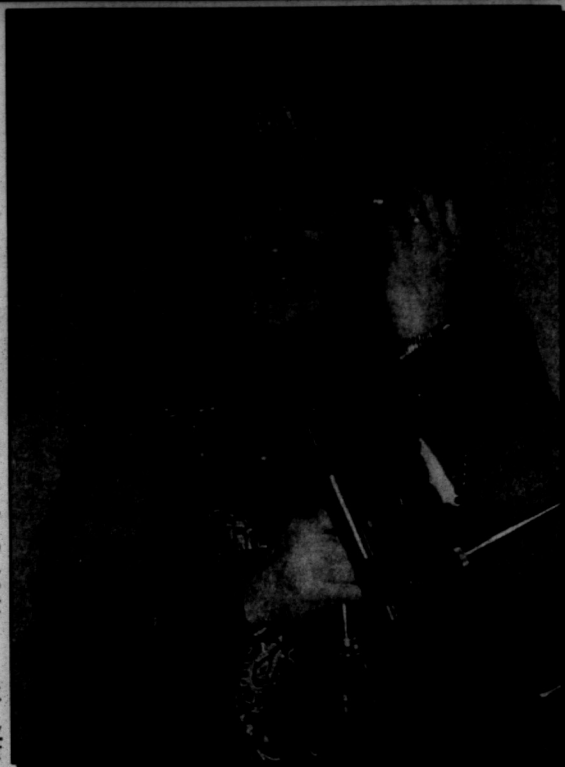
call (601) 825-9003 or (601) 941-3845.

First Church, Calhoun City, will present This Hope, a male quintet, in concert on May 23 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Williamsburg Church, Collins, will present a gospel concert featuring Ricky Atkinson and Compassion on May 2 at 7 p.m. Danny Berry, State Director of MADD, will also be at Williamsburg Church on May 4 at 6 p.m.

Mountain Creek Church, Florence, exceeded their goal of \$800 with \$1,664 for Annie Armstrong. Maude Walker is the WMU leader.

Dennis Arnold and Deliverance, Clinton, Ala., will be in concert at Bethel Church, Columbus, on May 4 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (662) 327-2111.



Charles E. Davis



Addie Adair Women on Missions, Center Hill Church, Hamilton

It's Not About Having A Lot Of Money

Throughout her life, Mrs. Webb was a good steward of all that God had blessed her with. With the help of The Baptist Foundation, she created her Last Will and Testament and it directed that upon her death, the Lola Ainsworth Webb Trust Fund be established.

Since Mrs. Webb's passing in 1987, the income of this fund has given thousands of dollars to ministerial students who attend Mississippi College. They are our future pastors, ministers of education and music as well as youth leaders and missionaries.

Mrs. Webb's gift continues to work beyond her lifetime. Today, Joey Everett is studying at Mississippi College with the assistance of the Lola Ainsworth Webb Trust. "I wouldn't have been able to attend MC without Mrs. Webb's Trust. Her planning not only helps me today, but will continue to go on beyond even that to everyone that I will encounter in my ministry," shared Joey. "She will never know how many lives she will touch beyond her lifetime and mine."

In addition, Mrs. Webb's Trust provides for foreign and home missions and helps fund the upkeep on a local church cemetery.



THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION



THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

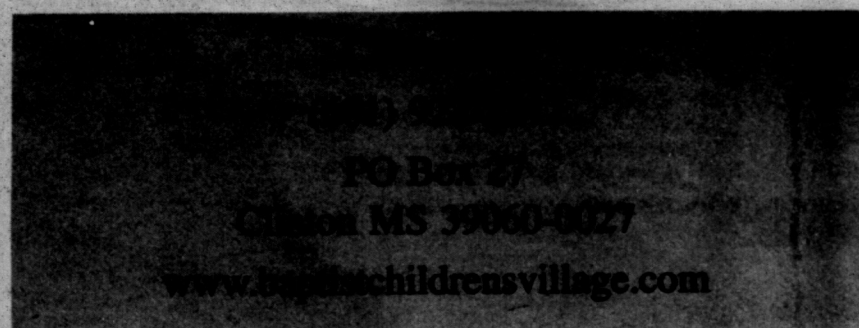
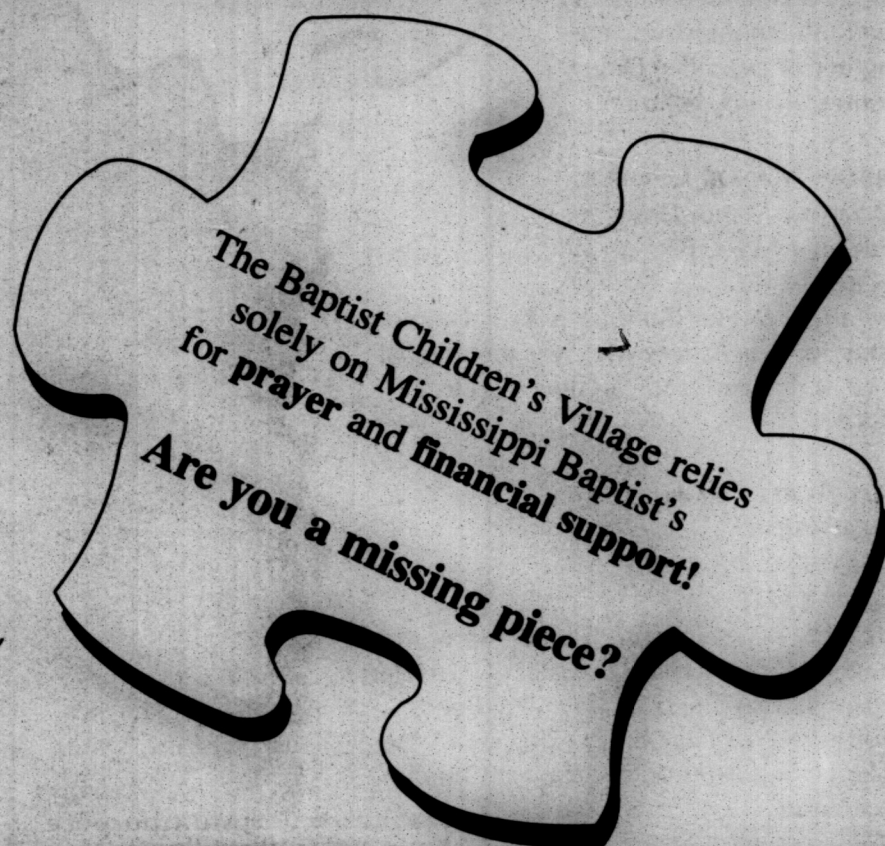
Mother's Day Offering 2003

Putting the Pieces Back Together

The Baptist Children's Village is the only Southern Baptist child care agency in our state. We have continually cared for Mississippi children since 1897. Because the needs of children and their families have changed drastically since those early days, we are constantly evaluating and adjusting the focus of this ministry to meet these ever-changing needs. There is, however, one underlying constant in this ministry-

that is our commitment to unify the family, if at all possible; and to undergird the family in its daily struggle to deal with a society that seems determined to annihilate it. This healing in families is possible only when God is allowed to work in the lives of children, mothers and fathers. The ministry of The Baptist Children's Village focuses on the total child, working to meet the physical, emotional, social

and spiritual needs of that child and his/her family. A team of professional, Christian staff work diligently to communicate a sense of infinite worth to hurting individuals whom God directs to us. A full-time chaplain and psychologist as well as qualified counselors and child care workers daily show Christ's love to children and families. At the pain around us, we realize that, were it not for God's limitless grace and mercy, we would all perish and drown in a sea of darkness. We believe, as an agency, God has called us to offer this hope to hurting children and families all over the state of Mississippi.



This Mother's Day promote
The Baptist Children's Village.

Please send me the following materials to help promote The Baptist Children's Village in my church on Mother's Day:

- ☐ Baptist Record Posters
- ☐ Bulletins
- ☐ Bulletin Inserts
- ☐ Offering Envelopes
- ☐ CD for Power Point Presentation
- ☐ 3-Minute Video

Please mail these materials to:

Name _____
Church _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

Clip and mail or FAX form to:
The Baptist Children's Village
P. O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
601 922-2242 FAX 601-922-0367

Where is Mississippi's largest family?

INDIA NUNNERY CAMPUS

805 Flag Chapel Road,
Jackson, MS 39209
(601) 922-2242

The India Nunnery Campus is the central headquarters for all campuses and programs for The Baptist Children's Village. The campus was named in memory India Ruth Nunnery, youngest daughter of executive Director Emeritus, Paul N. Nunnery.

"We felt God's call to work with hurting children that don't have anyone."
Bobby and Edna Warren,
Childcare Workers

FARROW MANOR CAMPUS

150 Farrow Manor Drive,
Coldwater, MS 38618
(662) 233-2155

The Farrow Manor Campus, is a rural campus named for Ada Farrow who was the original donor of the land, and can house up to 27 children.

REEDY ACRES CAMPUS

217 CR 438
Water Valley, MS 38965
(662) 473-3717

The Reedy Acres Campus is made up of three cottages which can house a total of 27 children. The campus is named for Rev. Guy Reedy, senior trustee of The Baptist Children's Village and longtime pastor of First Baptist Church Water Valley.

DICKERSON PLACE CAMPUS

491 Dickerson Lane SE,
Brookhaven, MS 39601
(601) 833-8104

Dickerson Place is named for the late Earl Dickerson. It houses two cottages with up to 18 children.

DEANASH CAMPUS

80 Sellers Street,
Wiggins, MS 39577
(601) 928-4599

Deanash is the former estate of the late "Dizzy" Dean and his wife Patricia Nash Dean. This group home, can house up to ten children at one time.



"I most enjoy the interaction with the children."
Tiffany Parker,
Medical Case Aid

"Before I came to The Village there was a void in my life after working with children for 35 years. Working with my girls at the BCV filled that void."
Missy Sumrall,
Childcare Worker

Programs offered by The Baptist Children's Village

EXTENDED RESIDENTIAL CARE

A plan of care for each child is made upon admission to the agency and is reviewed regularly. These plans are revised at

least two times each year with input from the child, the family and Village staff who are involved with their care.

"You are blessed when you work where God wants you."
Bob Catlett,
Buildings and Grounds

Our primary goal is family reunification whenever possible. Otherwise, our objective is to develop a plan for enlisting an alternative stable "family". For some children who have been in multiple placements or who have no viable family resources, The Village might be their family.

Every effort is made to allow Village children to experience growing up in a safe, healthy, Christian environment, communicating to each child a sense of infinite worth in Christ.

CRISIS SERVICES

Emergency Care is a 30-day crisis care program intended to meet emergency needs of children ages 4 to 18. This program includes crisis intervention services offered by a trained staff member. The Case Manager/Counselor acts as a liaison between the child, the legal guardian, other BCV staff, and the school discerning the best interest of the child and formulating a plan that reflects that interest.

We have Emergency Care facilities on our India Nunnery Campus, our Farrow Manor Campus and our Reedy Acres Campus. We have the capacity to care for about 30 children in this program at one time. These children attend public schools and Baptist churches in the community. They also benefit from scheduled time with our Chaplain.

RESIDENTIAL FAMILY MINISTRIES

The Residential Family Ministries approach to family crisis is to provide comprehensive intervention that encourages and supports each family member as the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the family are fully addressed. As a resolution to the crisis is sought, the family unit can be greatly strengthened by remaining intact in a supportive environment. The highly motivated parent will be given the opportunity and the support necessary to succeed in a way that preserves dignity and self-esteem, which are essential to recovery. This ministry is located on The India Nunnery Campus and currently has a capacity for nine mothers and their children.

Direct benefits to the family include:

- Family unit remains intact
- Safe haven in a time of crisis
- Case management and counseling for entire family
- Life skills taught by staff role-models
- Connection with community, employment, church and educational resources
- Transportation assistance
- Christ's love shared daily in word and example

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS

Christian Women's Job Corps was founded in July, 1994 by the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention. It is a ministry project that provides a Christian context for women in need to become equipped for life and employment. It also provides an opportunity for missions through which women help women.

The Baptist Children's Village now houses a site for this ministry to women on our India Nunnery Campus. While this BCV site focuses on mentoring; other educational or job placement services are offered to women in

The Baptist Children's Village Residential Family Ministry at the Calvary Baptist Church CWJC site.

How Does CWJC Help Break the Cycle of Poverty?

- We provide a mentor for every participant
- Bible study is provided
- Self-esteem building classes and parenting classes are offered
- Women are challenged to define life goals
- Women are encouraged to move toward those goals by developing skills
- Job training is furnished that will prepare women for the job market
- Potential employers are identified

ADVANCEMENT TOWARD INDEPENDENT LIVING

This program is offered to male adolescents who are between 17 and 21 years of age and who need support and training in order to live independent of family resources.

Admission to this program is granted to appropriate candidates who complete the application for admission, participate in an intake interview, have a willingness and capability to progress through the given tasks or objectives and a will and need to live independent of parental support.

This program focuses on the development of self-help skills necessary for a young person to be prepared for a productive independent life-style including basic financial, vocational, consumer and community skills.

The development of social and interpersonal skills which will lead to positive, functional, and accepted membership in society is also a priority. It is equally important for these young men to deal with separation issues in order to establish a sense of belonging. Finally, they must learn to live realistically in "the here-and-now" and plan realistically for the future.

Since we attempt to teach age appropriate independent living skills throughout our ministry, this program represents our ultimate goals in preparing our young people for a fulfilling, productive life in society, representing Christ (through the victories achieved in their lives).

VILLAGE MART

The Baptist Children's Village strives to be good stewards of all our resources. One way we are accomplishing this is through our thrift store— Village Mart, located in Cedar Place Shopping Center in Clinton. Donors supply used items to be sold in this unique boutique, and proceeds help undergird our

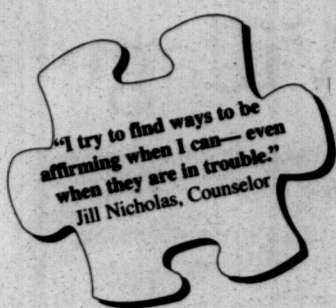


ministries throughout the state.

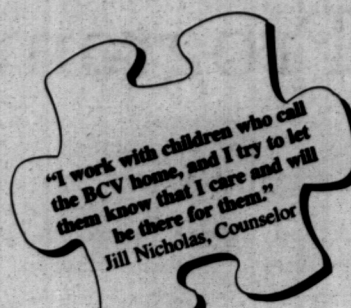
Village Mart accepts various donations including children's and adult clothing, nic-nacs, dishes, and furniture. Even used cars can be donated to The Baptist Children's Village to either use in one of our ministries or to be sold for monies to provide basic needs for children. All donations are received on The India Nunnery Campus on Flag Chapel Road in Jackson.

"My defining moment in this ministry was the day I asked a six-year old boy the probing question, 'well, who do you have?' and he responded, 'I have you'."
Tiffany Parker, Medical Case Aid





MONTH OF PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

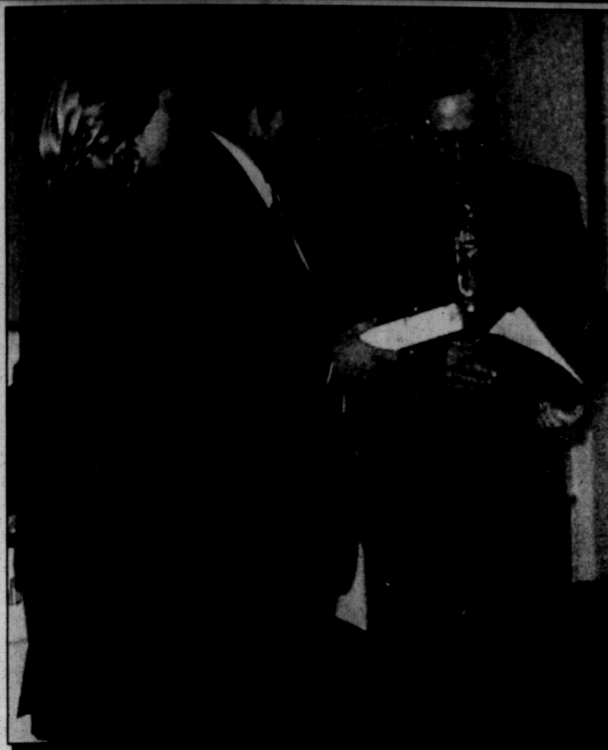


Sunday May 11 (Mother's Day) — Sunday, June 15 (Father's Day)

God puts together many individuals as puzzle pieces to complete His work. Such is true of BCV staff members who work together to restore the lives of children and families who come bringing their broken and disassembled lives. Here they find a variety of people which God has gifted and appointed for this time to help heal and restore. You will notice that this calendar is designed to run from Mother's Day to Father's Day. A perfect time to pray for and emphasize family. Our hope is that you will use this as an opportunity to spend precious time with your family praying for our family. Pray for this ministry and those who desperately need God's wisdom and discernment as they daily give their lives to restoring lost puzzle pieces in the lives of children and families.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mothers Day Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you are awake, when you lie down and when you rise. Deuteronomy 6:6-7	Extended and Emergency Care So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11	BCV Residential Family Ministry As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? Psalm 42:1-2	BCV Independent Living Program He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6	Childcare and Shift Workers I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Psalm 32:8	Counselors who work with children I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart. Jeremiah 24:7	Secretaries in BCV offices The joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10b
Rev. Tim Chennault, Chaplain and Activities Coordinator Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9	Dr. Randy Cotton, Clinical Director If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. 1 Peter 4:11	Rev. Ronny Robinson, Executive Director Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58	JoAnn Ginn, Executive Assistant Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Philippians 4:8	Chip Price, Central MS Area Director Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. Colossians 3:23	Henry Glaze, Assistant Executive Director/Programs And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8	Recreational Staff Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. Jeremiah 32:17
Accounting and Financial Management Staff Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Psalm 105:4	Administrative Staff I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. Job 42:2	Central Supply Department I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2	Maintenance Staff Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3	Residential Family Ministries "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord. Jeremiah 29:12-14a	Peggy Taylor, Campus Life Coordinator But you are to hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have until now. Joshua 23:8	Chris Huff, Unit Director, India Nunnery Campus Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19
Terry Busby, Unit Director, India Nunnery Campus But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. Malachi 4:2	Holly Bond, Intake Counselor Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9	Alabel Wiser, Intake Social Worker He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Psalm 91:1-2	Tiffany Parker, Medical Case Aid In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8:26	Village Mart Staff "Let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord. Jeremiah 9:24	Farrow Manor Campus, Independence Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering." Genesis 41:51-52	Ed Nixon, North Mississippi Area Administrator For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39
Dot Nixon, Farrow Manor Campus Case Manager The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Isaiah 40:28-29	Reedy Acres Campus, Water Valley "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11	Dona Lovelace, Reedy Acres Campus Case Manager For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:11-12	Dickerson Place Campus, Brookhaven Even youths grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:30-31	Joyce Wilson, Dickerson Place Campus Unit Director When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. Isaiah 43:2	Deanash Campus, Wiggins Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. Psalm 127:1	Chad Sauls, Deanash Campus Case Manager He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse. Malachi 4:6
Father's Day Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15						

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Kristi & Mark King and Eddie Parker, pastor

First Church Oloh, Sumrall, ordained **Mark King** into the ministry on March 2. King has

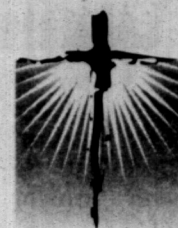
been called as pastor of West Salem Church, Richton. Pictured (from left) are his wife Kristi and King, and Eddie Parker, pastor.

Priceville Church, Tupelo, licensed **Laytan Procell** to the ministry on March 30. Procell serves as minister of youth at Priceville and plans to attend Blue Mountain College this fall. Pictured (from left) are Procell and Tim Tutor, pastor.

Whitman Wallace "Whit" Lewis was ordained to the ministry at North Winona Church, Winona, on April 6. Pictured

(from left) are Barry C. Corbett, pastor of First Church, Kosciusko; Ed McDaniel, pastor of North Winona Church; Lewis, and Jerry Lundy, pastor of Harmony Church, Louisville.

Hillcrest Church, Byram, held their preschool and children's Easter Party on April 12. The children had their picture made with the Easter Bunny and hunted eggs.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



Preschool Students of Hillcrest Church, Byram



Corbett, McDaniel, Lewis, and Lundy



Elementary Students of Hillcrest Church, Byram

Are you paying too much for your Medicare Supplement or Prescription Drugs? If yes, Call Today!

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Drug Card!

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Not connected with any Federal program.



Procell and Tutor

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH COLUMBUS, Miss., is currently accepting resumes for the position of Interim Director of preschool and children's ministries. Please mail resumes to P.O. Box 829, Columbus, MS 39703, attn: Robyn Gaydon.

SLAYDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, Slayden, Miss., (Marshall Association) is seeking an interim music/worship leader. Please contact the church office at (662) 252-4559.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OLOH: Full-time minister of youth and education. Send resume with photo to Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church of Oloh, 36 Oloh Church Road, Sumrall, MS 39482.

FREDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH IN NEW Albany, Miss., is searching for a minister of music. Please mail resume to 1616 CR 86, New Albany, MS 38652 or email Bro. Mike Mathena at mike2@datalane.net.

REVIVAL & HOMECOMING DATES

Neshoba, Union: April 27-May 2; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Dennis Duvall, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, music; Johnny Collins, pastor.

North Columbia, Columbia: April 27-30; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dean Register, preaching; Brad Day, music; Mike Grenn, pastor.

First, Sumrall: April 27-30; Sunday 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Ledbetter, Brooks, Ga., evangelist; Monroe McManus, music; Glenn Davis, pastor.

First, Tutwiler: May 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Champ Thomas Jr., Bartlett, Tenn.,

evangelist; J. B. Hays, pastor.

Salem, Preston: May 4; 10:30 a.m. and dinner on the grounds; paper goods will be provided; Jerry Jones, preaching.

Bethsaida, Philadelphia: April 27; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; singing, 1:30 p.m.

Spring Creek, Philadelphia: April 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kara Blackard, evangelist; Ronald Fulton, music; Wayne King, pastor.

Goss, Columbia: April 27; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; afternoon singing with Hosanna, 1 p.m.; Glen Nelson, speaking; Tim

Buckley, music; Mark McArthur, pastor.

Puckett, Puckett: April 27; service, 11 a.m.; dinner served; Sam Burton, speaking.

Puckett, Puckett: May 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner following, and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Moss, Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto, evangelist; Shellie Overby, White Oak Community, music; Grant McElveen, pastor.

Morrison Heights, Clinton: May 4; worship, 9 and 10:30 a.m.; Paid In Full concert, 6 p.m.; Fred Wolfe, interim pastor, preaching; Paid In Full, New Albany, music.

Shiloh, Vaiden: May 30-June 1; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.;

Sunday, 11 a.m.; Sonny Adkins, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Doug Warren, pastor, music.

Monticello, Monticello: April 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Jon Daniels, Jim Shaddix, Greg Warnock, Ron Mumbower, Argile Smith, preaching; Jon and Suzanne Rushing, Atlanta, Ga., music; Jon Daniels, pastor.

Clifton, Forest: May 4; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; homecoming and note burning; Billy Henry, preaching; Elmer Ash, pastor; bring a covered dish.

Shiloh, Vaiden: May 25; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will be served.

BAPTIST COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

The Mississippi College (MC) School of Law Moot Court Team was recognized as one of the top eight teams in the country at the National Black Law Student Association's Annual Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition, Los Angeles. The duo team members were Gail Walker, Raymond, and Kabah McCullough, Jackson. McCullough (pictured) also received the national BLSA award given to an individual for Best Oral Advocate.

The William Carey College (WCC) newspaper staff received eight awards at the Better Newspaper Contest sponsored by the Mississippi Press Association held recently in Jackson. Members of the award winning newspaper staff are Rachel George, Morton; Henry Jefferson, Shelby; Tessa Quave, Carriere; Mitchell Smith, Yazoo City; Breck Stapleton, Sumrall; Joy Stodghill, Waynesboro; Emily Wade, Morton; Karne Tatum, Magee; Keely Marshall, Hattiesburg; Chris Moser, Memphis, Tenn.; Ann Brinkman, Hattiesburg; Alan Burchfield, Columbus; Lindsay Henderson, Ellisville; Cathy Middleton, Hattiesburg; and Andrew Dale, Gulfport.

An exhibit of New Additions to the Sarah Gillespie Collection will be on display at the Lucile Parker Gallery, Thomas Hall, William Carey College (WCC) Hattiesburg Campus, until August 22. The exhibit will open with a luncheon reception honoring Gillespie on April 24 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Regular gallery hours are 1-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri. For appointments, call (601) 318-6192.

Johnnie Armstrong was presented with a certificate for participating in the Mississippi Ageless Heroes program and for being an inspirational figure to others by the Physical Education Majors and Minors Club at Blue Mountain College. Pictured (from left) are Tracy Rice, Carolyn Howell,



Rice, Howell, Armstrong, Fleming, Golik, and Turner

Armstrong, Anna Fleming, Emilia Golik, and Cristy Turner.

William Carey College (WCC) theatre student Carrie Ferguson-Bellew, Long Beach, presented her lighting design from the WCC

production of .out by the rabbit cage at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival April 14-18 in Washington, D.C. She will compete for the national award during the festival.



McCullough

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GET INSURED

Editor:

I just got through reading the March 20 guest opinion by Lynn P. Clayton (Health insurance and our churches). He shared how his insurance paid the bill for his stay in the hospital and pointed to the need for all churches to provide health insurance for their ministers. As a pastor, I want to share from the standpoint of having no insurance.

My wife had an infection that set up blood poisoning. She was admitted to the hospital on Monday night and discharged on Saturday morning. We got the hospital bill in the mail today, for almost \$14,000 (thus far).

Folks, I have been a pastor for 27 years. Most of the time the churches I pastored have provided less than we needed to live — full time on half-salary. They never offered health insurance. Mostly they gave a lump sum salary and we had to live on it. I have been

asked why I stayed at churches like that. I stayed because God called me there. He didn't say I would get rich, only that I would have what was needed.

Next week we go again to the doctor, and the bill grows. I don't know where it will end. My prospects of having a church that provides health insurance at our age is most unlikely. Pray for us! Please withhold my name, for I would not want any disfavor to fall on the church or myself.

Name withheld by request

SUPPORT PRESIDENT

Editor:

We at Kemper Association in DeKalb would like for you to know that we have been sending the President of the United States letters to encourage him and let him know that we as an association are praying for him. We have sent three letters to him since October 2002.

We would like to print this

information in The Baptist Record, not for bragging purposes but to maybe start a long line of people praying for the President. We want your readers to know what a small association can do for our President.

If anyone needs more information, please call me at (601) 743-4524.

Gwen Clifton, Adm. Asst.
Kemper Association
DeKalb

PROTESTS NO GOOD

Editor:

When I sit and watch the news and hear that American and British soldiers have died or been taken prisoner in Iraq, it saddens me because the next thing you see are people protesting the war in the U.S. and around the world. In my opinion, the protesters are not doing anyone any good — especially the families of the soldiers who are dying or being held as prisoners of

war. When these people protest the way they do, they are slapping in the face America, the President, the soldiers, their families, and the victims of September 11.

Instead of protesting, they should be on their knees praying for all the soldiers fighting in Iraq for us and for the Iraqi people who want to be free of Saddam Hussein and his regime. They should also thank God for a good, Christian President.

To all the countries condemning the U.S. and the U.K. for this war, I say this: One day someone like Saddam Hussein is going to come in and take control of your country. Then you're going to be on your knees praying for help. You're going to look up and see an eagle flying high and proud with U.S. and British flags clutched in its claws.

Instead of protesting, we all need to be praying.

Jackie Kyzar
Lena



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Book offers wisdom, guidance for troubled times

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — For Carlos Ferrer, the television coverage of war in Iraq was enough to prompt nightmares of his own childhood in Cuba: hearing the gunfire of revolution, seeing a man die in the street after being tortured by police, and hiding under his bed at night in fear.

In a new devotional book published by the North American Mission Board (NAMB), Ferrer cites the source of the peace he finally found — and it wasn't just political or economic. "God showed me that nothing can conquer fears except His peace," Ferrer, NAMB's chief financial officer, notes. "It was only after accepting His salvation that I was able to deal with the anxieties and fears of my past."

Ferrer is one 40 contributors to the book, Know Peace in Troubled Times, scheduled for release April 29.

The immediate impetus for the book was the Iraq crisis and fears of terrorist attacks, said Mary Branson, NAMB's director of marketing and editor of the book, but the topics cover the gamut of dealing with cancer, persecution, financial struggles, the death of a loved one, and brushes with death in wars or terrorist attacks.

Branson said the idea actually originated in late February when she and her colleagues met to see if there was something they could do to help individuals through the difficult times. "We decided that this didn't need to be one person's answer. This needed to be how God helped different people through different kinds of crises," Branson said.

Contributors include a broad range of nationally known Christian leaders such as Shirley Dobson,

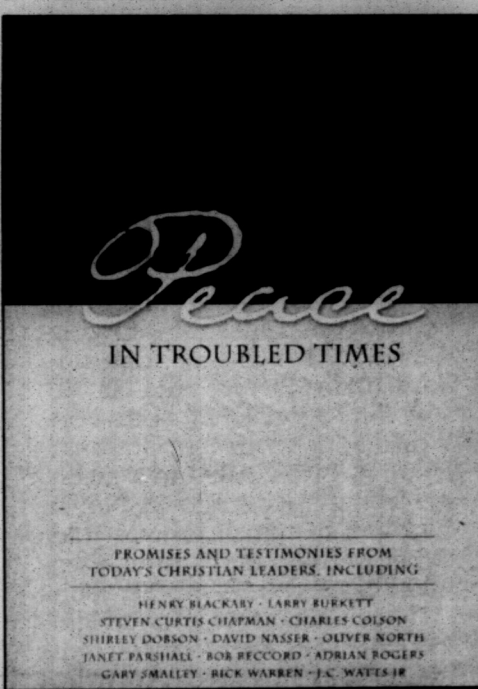
Adrian Rogers, Larry Burkett, Charles Colson, Gary Smalley, and Rick Warren — and the

not-so-famous, who like Ferrer have a story to share of God's incredible provision.

"We didn't sit down to say, 'Let's represent everybody evenly,' but when this came together we had people from their 20s to their 80s," Branson said. "We have African Americans, Iranians, and Hispanics — and we have experiences dating all the way from Pearl Harbor to 9/11. We even have something from Barbara Stevens, who was at the airport in the Philippines March 1 when her friend and fellow (Southern Baptist) missionary (Bill Hyde) was killed in a terrorist attack."

Know Peace in Troubled Times is available through LifeWay Christian Stores and other bookstores, as well as through NAMB at www.namb.net/catalog or by calling (866) 407-NAMB.

Through June 30, individuals who order by telephone can request a free copy of the book to be sent to a Southern Baptist chaplain for use in their ministry at no additional charge.



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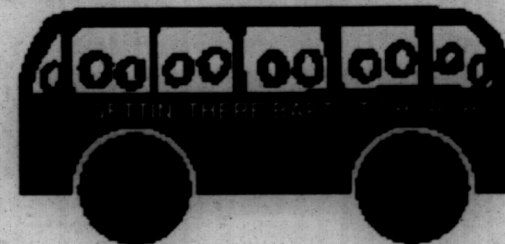
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Willey marks 65 years of service to church

SANDHILL, Miss. (Special) — More than sixty-five years ago, Viola Morgan of Star took the opportunity to become music teacher at Pisgah School in north Rankin County. Her mother termed Pisgah a "jumping-off place," but her brother took her to Jackson where she caught the train going to the Koch community near the school.

Morgan settled in and moved her church membership right away to Mt. Pisgah Church — the beginning of 65 years of continuing service to God as musician for the church, which was founded in 1831 and is the oldest Baptist church in the county. She soon became a fixture at the sanctuary keyboard, even if the old piano had to be propped up and leveled with bricks and many of the keys were stuck.

Morgan married George Alvin Willey Jr. on May 18, 1940. The newlyweds made their home on the Willey family farm near Red Oak, just east of Pisgah. The Willeys would attend his church, Leesburg Church, two Sundays a month when services were held there, and then attend Mt. Pisgah Church the remaining Sundays. He later

moved his membership to Mt. Pisgah Church where he was a faithful member until his death in 1976.

Viola Morgan Willey turned 90 years of age in September 2002, still serving Mt. Pisgah Church as organist for countless Vacation Bible Schools, revivals, funerals, weddings, and church services. Many children in the community were taught to play the piano by Willey. Many more children developed a love for music under her tutelage at the school, from which she retired in 1976.

Today there is a fifth generation of one family — and fourth generations of several other families — who continue to hear the sweet, magical sounds produced by Willey's fingers in tribute and service to her Lord each Sunday at Mt. Pisgah Church.

The people of the community, the members of Mt. Pisgah Church, and her family have truly been blessed to have had God's servant among them for so many years, and they all hope there will be many more years with her. Glory be to God for the life of Viola Morgan Willey.



Willey

Patterson tops list of possibilities for SWBTS post

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP) — Could Paige Patterson be the next president of Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS) in Ft. Worth? Since the abrupt "early retirement" announcement of

Southwestern President Ken Hemphill on April 8, speculation has run rampant in both Texas and North Carolina that Patterson, the president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., might return home to Texas for the top post at the largest seminary in Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Speculation is so strong that one of Southeastern's trustees asked Patterson about it during the seminary's board meeting in Wake Forest, N.C., on April 14. Patterson's cautious response won't quell many

rumors: "I have not been approached by anyone on the [search] committee at all about it." He later added: "I would be the most surprised man in the world, from several aspects, if that should happen."

Southwestern's presidential search committee had been appointed just one week earlier, when Hemphill announced he was moving to a newly-created position in Nashville as national strategist for the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth initiative.

In announcing Hemphill's Nashville job, the seminary said April 8 he would be "jointly employed" by the SBC

Executive Committee and LifeWay Christian Resources. However, seminary trustee chairman David Allen confirmed April 16 that Hemphill's salary will be paid by Southwestern for a year after he leaves the seminary.

Hemphill served a short interim pastorate in 2002 at First Church, Jackson, which is seeking a replacement for retired former pastor Frank Pollard.

The most conservative segment of Southwestern's trustees has criticized Hemphill for not cleaning house at Southwestern and for allowing too much leeway for non-fundamentalist faculty members to stay on. Sources in both Fort Worth and North Carolina said Hemphill was called to a meeting a few years ago in North Carolina in which he was told either to resign or be fired, then given time to find another job.

Those accounts correspond loosely with Patterson's comments to his trustees April 14. He said Hemphill shared with him about three years ago that he was considering a career change because, in Patterson's words, "he still had a heart for the pastorate." Patterson further explained that Hemphill contacted him and some other friends several weeks ago to let them know he could be available.

Shortly afterward, SBC Executive Committee president Morris Chapman invited Hemphill to become the national strategist for Empowering Kingdom Growth, a new initiative intended to promote church health and growth.

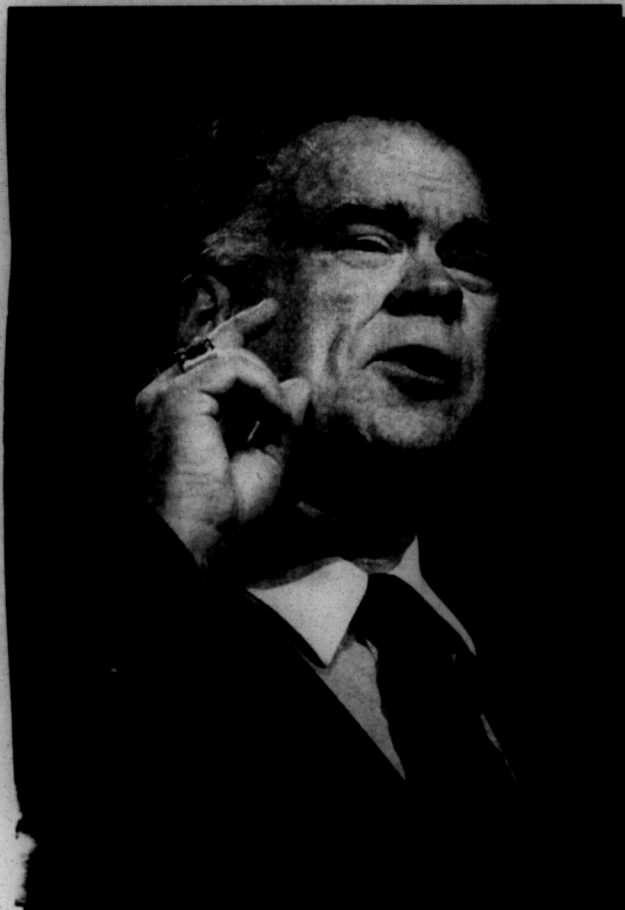
Allen flatly denied assertions that Hemphill's departure was coerced, however. "That's patently false," he said in an interview. "I was on the board when he was brought in... and I served on the board while he has been president. I can tell you unequivocally that he was not forced out."

For his part, Hemphill has kept a low profile and downplayed talk of his departure being forced, even though those close to him report he and his wife Paula have been deeply hurt by the ordeal.

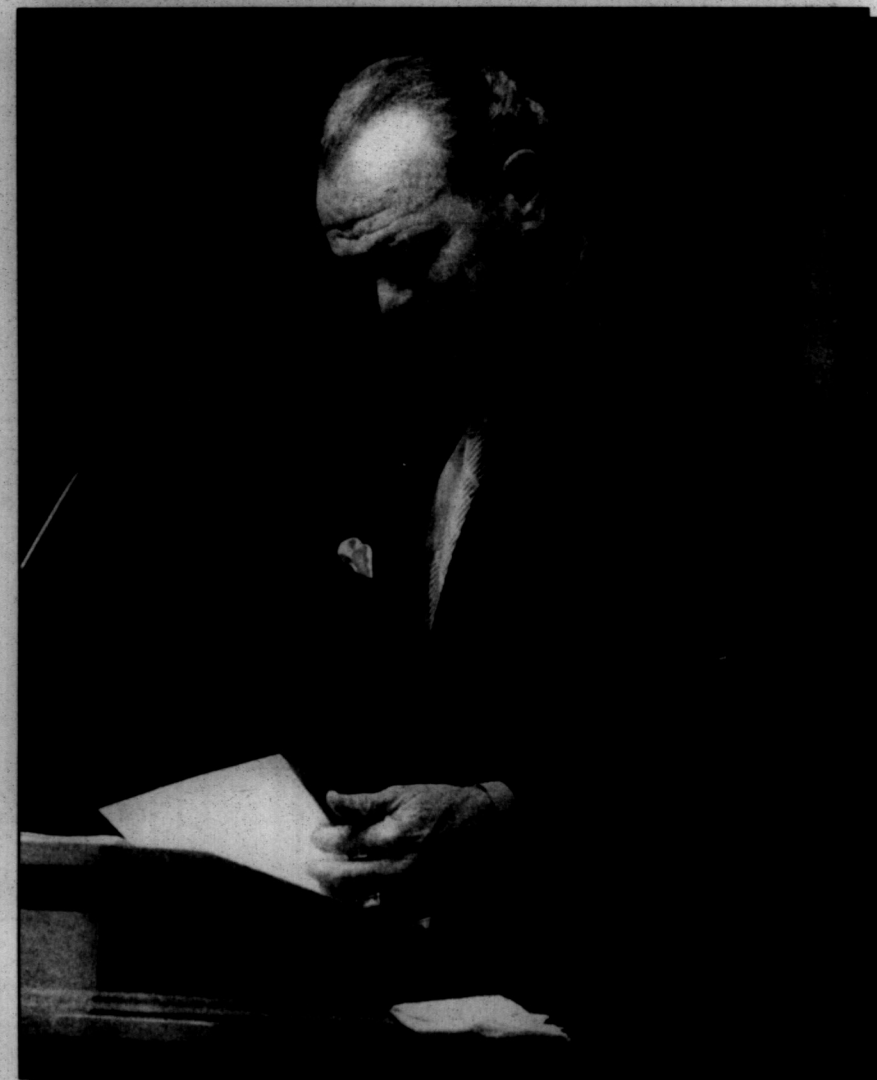
The day he announced he was leaving, talk of "God's will" permeated the statements of both Hemphill and seminary trustees. "For several years, we have been praying about our gifts, about how we could best advance the kingdom of God,"

Hemphill tearfully told students, faculty and staff in a packed chapel service.

Terms of Hemphill's financial compensation from the seminary were not disclosed. Trustees met in executive session April 8 to iron out those details. Allen, a professor at Criswell College in Dallas and pastor of MacArthur Boulevard Church in Irving, confirmed Hemphill will be paid by the seminary through July 31, 2004, when his retirement goes into effect.



PATTERSON TO SWBTS? — Questions are swirling around Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., as a possible successor for Ken Hemphill, who announced his retirement on April 8 from the presidency of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. (BP photo)



EMOTIONAL FAREWELL — Southwestern Seminary President Ken Hemphill reads from a prepared text on April 8 as he announces his retirement from the seminary presidency. Hemphill made the emotional announcement before a packed chapel service on the seminary's Ft. Worth campus. (BP photo)

'Pivotal moment' presented in war-torn Iraq

AMMAN, Jordan (BP) — As stability returns to Iraq, Southern Baptist workers are gearing up for massive relief projects inside the country that will need hundreds of volunteers to staff.

ignored, said John Brady, coordinator of Southern Baptist work across the Middle East and northern Africa. "We in the church are the body of Christ," Brady said. "It is through us that

first ministry projects at a tent city for refugees in eastern Jordan near the Iraqi border. They have distributed food, diapers, and other supplies to Sudanese, Somalis, Egyptians, and Palestinians who fled hostilities in Iraq.

Jordanian officials have characterized the situation at the camp as "desperate."

IMPOVERISHED TOWNS

One worker even managed to visit southern Iraq just before the war began. He saw impoverished towns and villages where basic systems such as electricity and water supplies were barely working even before fighting began and heavily oppressed people struggled to survive.

More than half of Iraq's people depended on humanitarian aid for food before the war. While shops had food and goods for sale, few Iraqis had money to buy anything, he said.

Since the war began, he said, nearly a half million Iraqis have fled their homes and are basically refugees in their own country. "We will not be trying to duplicate the work of the large aid agencies or governments that will be doing relief work in Iraq."

"More likely, Southern Baptists will assume responsibility for certain villages and help provide them with food, water or other assistance."

Some work may be with Marsh Arabs, a minority group of Shiite Muslims in southern Iraq. If that happens, it would be the group's first contact with evangelical Christians on a large scale. The same is true for the Kurds in northern Iraq.

DESPERATE NEEDS

"We must think of people groups cut off from the outside world, fearful of their own government," Brady said. "They have been imprisoned and oppressed, and they desperately need both political and spiritual freedom."

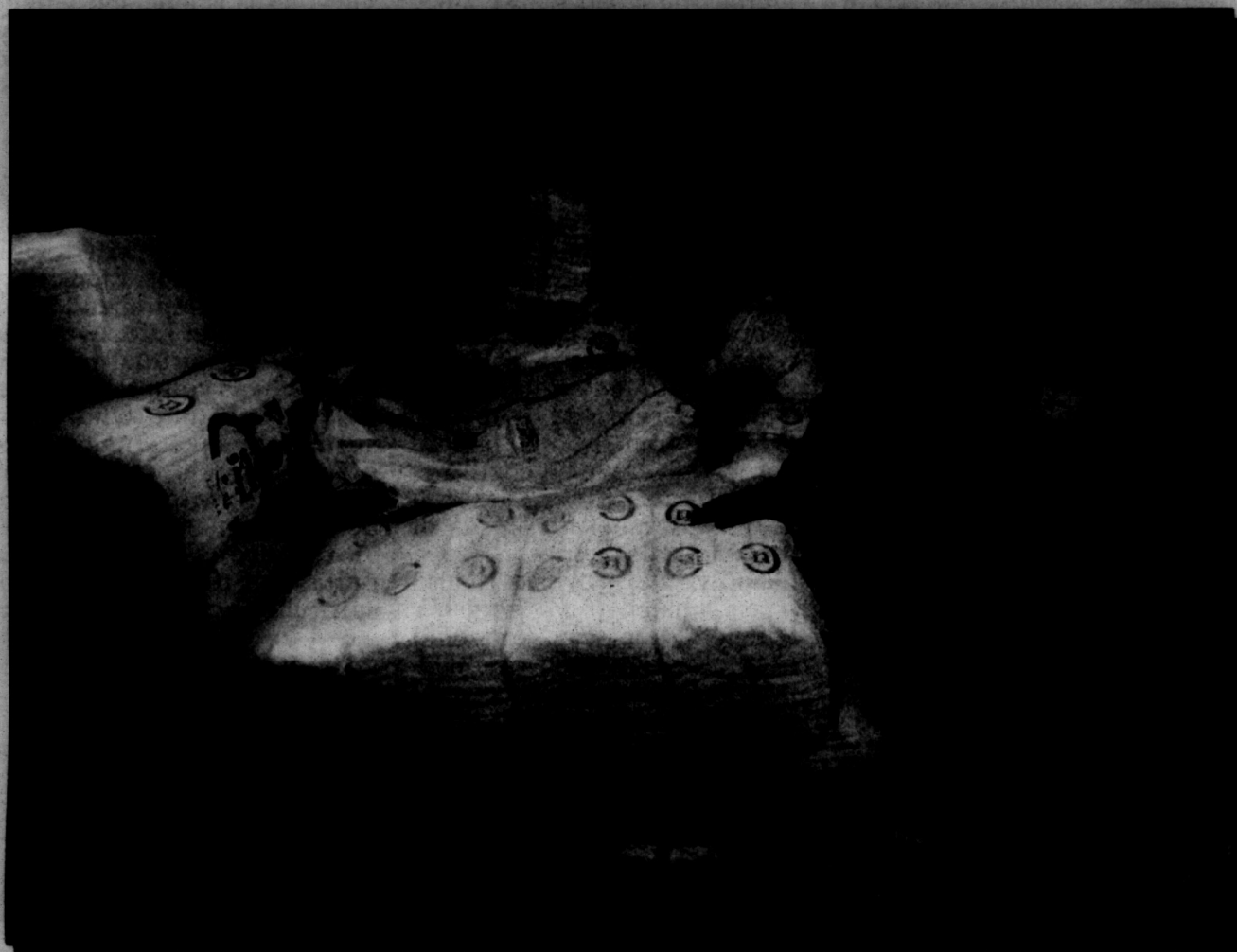
River water is contaminated and salination is a problem in much of southern Iraq — and getting clean water will be one of the biggest needs people have, the worker said. Blankets and tents may be needed more in northern Iraq.

"It will be critical for our volunteers to set up micro projects in villages to both meet needs and show people we care about them," said Brian Barlow, a Southern Baptist worker in Jordan. "A church might adopt a school and send in school supplies or provide a ball field and equipment for a village."

"We will need to establish long-term programs of good will," he said.

Other Southern Baptist workers familiar with Iraq agreed that almost any kind of willing evangelical workers will be needed after the war. Top-priority needs will include all sorts of medical and dental workers, construction workers, agricultural and livestock workers, logistics workers and fish farm experts, Brady said.

Along with the need for workers, Brady said there will be a great need for funds, both for humanitarian projects and literature, cassettes and other materials. He urged Southern Baptists to remember needs in Iraq as they give through their churches this year.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY —

As the war winds down and stability returns to the battered nation of Iraq, Southern Baptist workers are preparing for massive relief projects inside the country. Workers have made plans to feed as many as 10,000 people a day in both northern and southern Iraq, and meet other needs as volunteers and funds become available. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

Workers have made plans to feed hungry people in both northern and southern Iraq — and meet other needs as well — but only if enough volunteers and funds are available.

The opportunity for Southern Baptists to demonstrate God's love in Iraq is a "pivotal moment in history" that must not be

He wants to work in this troubled part of the world.

"There will be both an urgency and an opportunity inside Iraq after the war," he added. "This will be a narrow window of opportunity and we must begin getting ready now."

Six Southern Baptist workers have already set up one of the

IMB's Cashion offers advice for Iraq-bound vols

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists who want to help the people of Iraq recover from the war should start getting

ready to go, an International Mission Board (IMB) leader says. "When the door opens for relief efforts, we want everyone to be ready to go immediately," said Bill Cashion, who directs the IMB's volunteer missions efforts, "but there are lots of details to take care of ahead of time, especially if you have never traveled overseas before."

A list of all those details, plus a host of other helpful ideas, can be found on the IMB's website at <http://going.imb.org/vim/main/default.asp>.

From specifics to "big picture" issues, the site has useful information and web links on everything you need to get ready for overseas volunteer

service, including:

- Passport: Processing a new or renewal passport request generally takes six to eight weeks.

Winter and spring are peak times for people to request passports because summer is peak travel season, with passport processing taking eight to 12 weeks. Allow plenty of time for your passport to be processed so that you receive your passport back several months before you leave for your project.

- Visa: Some countries require a visa in order to enter the country. Your travel agent will help you acquire a visa or will give you further instructions about what to do if your country of service requires a visa. A visa requires about six to eight weeks to process, so plan accordingly, especially if you have to apply for or renew your passport.

- Travel: Volunteers are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. You are free to use any travel agency that you find helpful. The International Mission Board can put you in contact with a travel agent experienced in working with IMB volunteers.

- Immunizations: The cost of immunizations can vary widely. Shop around for the best price on immunizations. County health clinics and doctors you know personally may be good options. Specific immunizations required and recommended for your country of service are listed on the website.

- Insurance: All volunteers involved in an IMB volunteer project are required to purchase insurance at their own expense. The board has an official carrier that provides low-cost medical, accidental death, medical evacuation, disability and many other benefits. For more information, visit www.aaintl.com.

- Cross-cultural training: Serving in another culture presents certain challenges to the

volunteer. In cooperation with the IMB, many state conventions and other entities offer specific training for volunteers in how to minister in another culture.

- Team leader training: In addition to cross-cultural training for volunteers, special training also is available for people who will lead teams. A schedule of team leader and cross-cultural training events is available on the website.

The IMB has compiled a free, 38-page guide that covers everything volunteers need to know, from spiritual preparation to how to pack a suitcase. The book can be downloaded or printed from the website, going.imb.org/vim/main/default.asp.

More information on international missions travel can also be obtained from the Partnership Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3239 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 239. E-mail: krhodes@mbcb.org.

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NAOJ OPVV, ZAOJ OPZAV

PJUQ OVBEUV.

FJATP OGJ: HVSVA

Clue: E = P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Joel 1:5